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ITIn order to avoid delays, on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Departments, according to tenor or purpose.

After the War. Parliament meets tomorrow and English interest is somewhat diverted from the field of fighting even in the panic caused by Buller's disastrous defeat, just reported. to speculate as to the probable bearing of the session upon the war and upon the ministry. Some extremists are forecasting the downfall of the Salisbury government consequence of the reverses which the British forces have suffered and the blunders of management and preparation. More conservative estimates do not go so far, for it is recognized that one of the worst mistakes the English people could make now would be to change ministries in the midst of a trying struggle, the outcome of which It may even be that the houses will see fit is by no means certain. It is rather more likely that the reckon-

ing will come later when the record is fully made up and when the obvious mistakes of Chamberlain and some of his colleagues will be observable and measureable in the light of the entire procedure. A confident understanding is settling down upon men's minds just now that as soon as the business of the war is finished, with whatever resuit, a storm will break upon the devoted head of the secretary of state for the colonies, barely paralleled in English history. For it is virtually accepted now that the gallant defense of the Boers and their magnificent strategy in offense have insured them such consideration in the ultimate adjustments that England will secure little if any more than the advantages offaced by the Boers in their last proposition to Chamberlain. That is to say, it seems assured now that in no event will the Boer organization be destroyed, but that the re-publies will be permitted to retain their entities, with the outlanders upon a definite basis of prospective citizenship.

Should this be the result of all the sacritices and agonies of the English people it is not difficult to imagine the storm of exeeration centering about Chamberlain, as the man who maneuvered the nation into a fruitless and desperately costly war. Of course Lord Salisbury cannot escape his share of the responsibility as the head of the ministry, without whose acquiescent the negotiations could not have been carried to the point of rupture. Just who the opposition will put forward as a leader when the crisis comes cannot be forefold. It is unimportant in the terms of the presest situation. The one definite fact clearly written in prophecy on the wails is that this war will whirl Joseph Chamberlain from power, re-establish the liberal party and give English politics a new series of issues upon which to divide for the next

Olco Statistics.

The figures as to the shipments of butter imitations into the states and territories during the last fiscal year, submitted to the House Saturday by Secretary Gage in answer to a resolution of inquiry, will doubtless be exploited in committee during the consideration of one or another of the pending oleo bills. In their present shape the statistics do not wholly reveal the true inwardness of this traffic. It will be interesting to learn from authorities how much of the 76,000,000 pounds of oleo probably over counters as pure butter, at butter prices. It may be doubted whether this showing can be made with any degree of exactness, for the precise extent of the oleo fraud is only a matter of surmise. Yet it is known to be widespread. But it will be possible to ascertain what proportion of this total shipment went into states or territories which have prohibitory laws. That fact can readily be shown by an examina-

tion of the state statutes. The proposition before the committees is whether it is possible so to tax and regulate the manufacture and sale of these butter imitations as to protect the people from present very high. Can the tax be so fixed that neither the wholesaler nor the retailer will be tempted to sell the stuff as butter one sen e, to fix the tax so as to bring the the genuine dairy product, in order to encourage and protect an industry uncon-trolled at present by any trust and directly affecting almost every small farmer in the United States. The only possible objection to this move is the plea for cheap butter for the poor consumer. The latter, how-ever, can be accommodated provided the imitation be so marked as to prevent fraud product. It has been found in practice that does not suffice. The dishonest dealer can although he thereby runs the risk of punishment. Some of the states require the distinctive mark to take the form of a harmless coloring of the goods, which permanently marks the product for what it is and prevents fraud.

One of the bills now pending lies before the committee on ways and means and the other before the committee on agriculture. There is some difference between them. but they aim at the same object. One of them, or a combination of the two, ought to pass if any feasible and practicable way can be found to reinforce the laws as they stand and further discourage the perpetration of a gross fraud upon both consumers

The difficulty in getting jurors may be increased by the necessity of requiring physicians' certificates to show that a man is not likely to cause loss of time by getting sick in the middle of a trial.

Legalizing the Consolidation.

a majority of the street railroads of the District are at present under a consolidated ownership and management, their charters being held by a central corporation representing both local and foreign capital. beneficial effect of this consolidation upon the public has already been felt, a transfer system having been adopted which has Cubans, who hoped the greatly increased the value of a car ticket the war of liberation. to the average passenger and given him ac-cess for a single fare to a wider range of territory than was ever before similarly opened. Another consequence of the comof work on the rapid transit reconstruction of the last remaining horse car lines, until the day is in sight when Washington will possess a thoroughly modern street railway benefit to the people. At the same time another corporation holds such franchises under good management that almost direct competition is ensured between two power-

ful rivals for the public patronage. It is in the public interests that the roads held by separate charters under the consolidated management should be formally brought together under a single incorporation. By this means the present universal transfer system in vogue on the combined lines would become compulsory and the public would not be confronted with the possibility of the abrogation of this privilege at the caprice of the management. ficiently refuted by technical authorities be-

Such an end is served by the bill offered in the Senate today by Senator McMillan, which deserves prompt and thorough consideration by the houses. It legalizes all the operations of the past few months which have resulted in the establishment of this great association of franchises, revolutionizing the street railway business of Washington. While virtually wiping out the separate existences of the various corporations, it specifically preserves all the obligations heretofore imp osed by law upon any and all of them and thus protects the public interests by holding fast to all the requirements exacted from the lines

One feature of the bill may require particular examination and consideration. This is the clause which enables any of the individual lines specified-those now controlled by the "syndicate"-to enter into contracts with any other street railroad ompany operating in the District for the use of its lines. This leaves wide open the way to a further consolidation which would destroy all competition and vest the entire street railway business in a single corporation. It remains to be decided whether, first, there is any likelihood of such a final consolidation under this blanket authorization; second, whether such a consolidation is desirable, safe or acceptable to the people of the District. It may be that the District committees or the houses will see fit to eliminate this clause, confining th onsolidation power to the roads already held by the syndicate, which represent all not held by the Capital Traction Company. to go further and provide specifically against the union of these two great rivals for the public patronage, by specific enactment. In any event, however, with this possible exception, the bill represents the climax of an operation which has already greatly benefited the people of Washington and stands to afford even more positive benefits in the future, as the full fruits of a modern equipment and an intelligent management with a well-guarded competition are enjoyed by the riding public.

As a leader, in the sense of possessing energy, aggressiveness, and personal attractiveness, Mr. Bryan ranks high. He gave the country a taste of his quality in 1896. But is he also a harmonizer? Can he bring together brethren who are seriously divided, so that it will be possible for them to dwell together in unity again? Such a task is now before him, and a great deal depends upon how he succeeds with it, or whether success is possible.

Bourke Cockran is a gold democrat, but will support Mr. Bryan this year on one condition. All he asks is that anti-expan sion be made the dominant issue of the campaign. He does not object to the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform, but he wants it distinctly understood that that instrument is no more acceptable to him now than it was four years ago when he formally repudiated it. Reaffirm it, but keep it in the background. Let the note against expansion be loud and full.

Henry Watterson is a gold democrat, but will support Mr. Bryan this year on any platform. He has very definite ideas, however, about what the democratic platform should be. He considers that the free silver issue is done for. · He urges earnestly that expansion be declared for. Expansion, in his opinion, is both a democratic policy and a national necessity, and, if the party declares against it, it will go to certain de feat. Mr. Watterson and Mr. Cockran are tegether on the money issue, but are as far

Senator Morgan is a silver democrat, and wants the Chicago platform reaffirmed and kept to the front. But he is an expansion ist, and advises against any change of attitude with regard to our new possessions. American sovereignty should be established and maintained in all of them. Any other policy would be, in his opinion, not only a mistake, but the costliest of mistakes. He advises, therefore, in favor of a declaration for expansion

Senator Jones of Arkansas is a silver emocrat, and wants the Chicago platform reaffirmed. But he is against expansion, and wants his party to declare against it. He will urge that such a declaration be made by the democratic national conven-

Senator Teller is a silver republican, and if the Chicago platform is not reaffirmed he will not support the democratic nominee Silver, in his opinion, is still the overshadowing issue. As to expansion, his position is conservative. But the policy of scuttle-the Atkinsonian policy-is repug-

Senator Pettigrew is a silver republican. and wants the Chicago platform reaffirmed. He is also an extreme anti-expansionist. He is the senatorial mouthpiece of the Aguinaldo Aid Society. He is as much opposed to Mr. Morgan on the expansion nestion as to Mr. Cockran and Mr. Waterson on the money question.

stand on one acceptable to all of these the campaign in the character of Mr. Facing-All-Ways? or as Billy Bothsides? does not seem likely.

Count de Castellane's clothes are attracting a great deal of attention. His wife cal ambitions, but it cannot be denied that she dresses her husband nicely.

Oom Paul probably has no doubts whatver of being able to enlist a great deal of European sympathy in case he demonstrates his ability to win on his own ac

Mr. Goebel is hanging on with the pertinacity of a man who is doubtful about ever getting another chance.

It is feared that the catastrophe at Spion Kop involved some damage to the press censoring machinery.

Whenever Mr. Bryan comes into the enemy's country Nebraska seems inclined to

Goldwin Smith's Monumental Mistake.

One of the most solemn convictions resting in the public mind in this country re specting a matter of mystery is that the battle ship Maine was destroyed by an ex-ternal explosion. Personal estimates as to the exact responsibility for the crime vary omewhat between ascribing it to fanatical Spaniards of Havana acting without special motive other than hatred for America, and vengeance for the American exposure of belief that the deed was done by scheming Cubans, who hoped thereby to precipitate

But, despite these differences in particular judgment, practically the entire nation only that the Maine was wrecked by a torbination of charters has been the pressing pedo, detonated by a malicious hand. It is therefore surprising and decidedly un-fortunate that Prof. Goldwin Smith should have written as he has just done to the London Speaker anent this matter of the ystem, operating upon a basis of maximum Maine. He is thus quoted from London:

Maine. He is thus quoted from London:

"I suppose the donors of the Maine thought they were paying a compliment to America in calling it by that name, but really they were pricking the American conscience, as there are few things more certain than that the Maine was blown up by the ignition of the coal in her bunkers. The same accident has happened to three American vessels since, one of them commanded by the same captain of the Maine, though in these cases the vessels were saved. Nothing is more certain than that the Maine was not blown up by the Spaniards."

Dr. Smith's oracu'ar utterance respecting the coal bunker fires will assuredly be suf-

the coal bunker fires will assuredly be suf-

fore the echoes of his malicious commen have died away. It suffices here to note that all the evidence in the case shows that there were no bunker fires on the Maine when she was last inspected, a very few hours before the explosion, and that it is absolutely impossible that such a fire could develop and cause sufficient heat to explode the magaines between the time of inspec-

tion and the time of destruction. It will require a more authoritative dec aration than that of the Canadian essayist and historian to convince the English peo ple that the United States rushed to wa upon an error of judgment and a mistake of fact. It remains true, as well, that while the war with Spain was doubtless hastened by some months by the destruction of th Maine, it was nevertheless inevitable and the net result would have been the same had the Maine remained to participate in the splendid performances of the American

The chief effect of a rancorous commen like that in the Speaker is to cast a deep discredit upon the writer and to place in extreme jeopardy whatever prestige he has attained through his previously scholarly reviews of men and events.

The new Emperor of China has a great advantage inasmuch as his youth will enable the Empress Dowager to merely spank him instead of having him beheaded.

A glance at the news should convince Aguinaldo of the absurdity of comparing he Filipinos with the Boers in any respect

London is hopefully awaiting a chang from the reports that the army marched up a kopje and then marched down again. SHOOTING STARS.

Nothing at All to Say,

seems to me," said the diplomat that there is something to be said on both

sides of this question." "Maybe so," answered the Boer general. 'But you'll have to get somebody else to say it. I'm not talking these days."

Retribution. The boy who throws the snow ball now At venerable folk One day his punishment shall find

On him will be the joke. For he'll grow up in course of time And solemn methods learn. And then he will by urchins small

Ensily Managed. "Suppose," said one trust promoter, "that

this suggestion to ostracise us is adopted What'll we do?"

"That's easily managed," answered the other. "We'll refaliate. If they do that we won't send 'em any invitations to participate in our pay rolls."

Better So.

"It's very likely," said the statesman "that getting rid of that man from Utah facilitated congressional busiiess very much." "It was a great moral display, anyhow.

"Yes. And it had its practical benefit. Think of a man who has three families each with several members clamoring for the last word! He has had too much argumentative experience. If he were to get started on a filibuster, he'd never let go.

A Sense of Relief. "Where is the former Chinese emperor?" sked the new potentate.

"He is still in his room. He left orders ot to be awakened." "Aha! Indulging his grief."

"No, your majesty. He said he was gong to get the first good, solid sleep he has had in years. It's a great comfort to him not to have to stay up all night to get the morning papers and see whether he has been assassinated or not.'

Learn to love yoh neighbor; Civilize 'im right; Make 'im learn 'is lessons Wid a chunk o' dynamite.

Ain't no time to lose, Make 'im git a hair-cut An' wear patent leather shoes. Learn to love yoh neighbor

Chase 'im wid yoh rifles.

Git 'im on de run. Teach 'im how to cipher At de muzzle of a gun. Gettin' education Is somethin' mig

An' "Lesson I" is findin' out When you has had enough.

For Direct Election of Senators.

From the Chicago News. The existing system of electing United States senators is constantly growing more unsatisfactory. The spectacles presented to the nation by Pennsylvania and Monto the nation by Pennsylvania and Montana are anything but edifying. If Quay shall be seated and the precedent thus established that governors may appoint where legislatures fail to elect, the situation may be expected to grow still worse. In that event politicians in touch with the governor doubtless will deliberately plan deadlocks in order to secure the appointment of political favorites, who, like Quay, may be very obnoxious to the people.

There is a very general agreement that the election of senators by popular vote would be productive of much better results in every respect. Not only would better men be sent to Washington, but the legislative bodies would be improved through the removal of influences that are demoralizing to them.

Ex-Consul Macrum.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The country will utter a sigh of relief when it learns that ex-Consul Macrum is on the high seas and we can hear nothing more about him for a week or so. His behavior from the moment he persisted in de-serting his post at Pretoria at a critical juncture has been most offensive in its very inoffensiveness. By remaining mysterious-ly silent he has impressed two continents with the idea that he has an official status with far-reaching powers when he is not even a consular agent. The State Depart-ment has repudiated him, but Mr. Macrum has refused to be repudiated. Nothing that he has said has been creditable to him or to the country he represented. As a mys-tery Mr. Macrum has achieved prominence, but this is doubtful success. navior from the moment he persisted in de

Mixed as Well as Mistaken.

rom the Boston Herald. From the Boston Herald.

The Washington parson who thought he saw champagne bottles brought out of President McKinley's office, when they were really mineral water bottles, now has the impudence to say that he never made such a statement, and that it has never been disproved. Which is very much like saying of the darky who was caught in the act that he never borrowed the kettle, and that it was cracked when he borrowed it. The parson is evidently as mixed as he is mistaken.

Illinois' Refactory Labor Element.

From the New York Tribune.

The Illinois striker has not waited till this time to give proof that he is among the most malignant of his kind, but he renews and confirms it up to date, having in Springfield recently been engaged in blowing up cars with dynamite, five having been thus destroyed, the last one in the middle of the city and not empty of its passengers. The state appears to have a particularly refractory labor element to deal with, much readier for violence and disorder than the community appears to be to repress it. From the New York Tribune.

A Chance for the Facts.

From the Providence Journal.

Commander Wainwright's achievement at Santiago was one of the most spectacular of the Spanish war, and it is pleasing that his ability and courage should be recognized by the presentation of a sword at Washington. But why has no competent poet celebrated the destruction of the Furor and Pluton in verse? What other warlike event of recent times lends itself more easily to the muse? Perhaps the trouble is that real heroes are more abundant in the United States than real poets.

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